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The Papers read were—

1. *Expedition into the Interior of South Australia.* By the Governor, Sir R. MACDONNELL. With a Letter to Sir R. Murchison, Vice-President R.G.S.

SIR RICHARD MACDONNELL, with a party of six persons, 20 saddle and 10 pack horses, left Angipena in October, 1859, on an exploratory tour to the northwards, following the direction of the late discoveries. They had found more difficulty in procuring feed for their horses in the settled districts south of that place than subsequently fell to their lot to experience in any other part of their long journey. Sir Richard first made an examination of the Appealina and other mines, whose reported mineral wealth appears to have been greatly overstated. He then proceeded by Mount Lyndhurst to the Mount Attraction Springs; then to the Finness Springs, which seem of considerable importance; thence to Blanche Cup; and finally to the Loddon. Nearly all the springs in this part of Australia are in the vicinity of large lagoons and salt-creeks. Most of them are of the same type, consisting of stony mounds, with reeds at the top and a hollow basin in the centre, containing water from a few inches to six feet in depth; while from each cup, either over the brim or from the side, issued a stream proportioned to the strength of the spring. The waters were not brackish, but they seemed to promote thirst. The climate promised to be favourable to those who might be able to provide a shelter against the great heat of the sun. The nights were cool. The Governor reached Adelaide by the end of December, after a rapid and arduous expedition of nearly 1800 miles.

In Sir Richard's letter to Sir R. Murchison he touches on many points of geographical interest. He mentions that springs similar to those of Blanche Cup, &c., that is to say, consisting of small conical hillocks, hollowed at the top, and containing water which overflows the brim, have been found in lat. 31, due west of Mount McPherson. He hopes that the most arid and difficult parts of Australia may be opened up by means of these springs, for they occur in very unpromising localities.

He also mentions, with regard to the country lately traversed by himself, that Mr. Goyder has been despatched on a two years' expedition, with a well equipped party, in order to map it out.